

Photo Copy of File No. WAS/PO4/125/2/78

(11)

Subject: Enquiries regarding
reported death of Netaji in
Taipei

S. No- 1-16 Corr

Keep

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Photo Copy of File No. WAS/PO 4/125/2/78



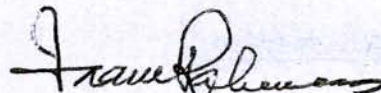
Subject: Enquiries regarding
reported death of Netaji in
Taipei

EMBASSY OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 30th, 1978

Reference letter dated May 16th, 1978 placed below from the Ministry of External Affairs. It is understood that some documents relating to Netaji Bose are available in the U.S. National Archives as part of the documentation relating to World War II in the Far Eastern theatre. Someone has to go to the National Archives to examine the documents and to ask for those required for our purpose. This can best be done by an officer or research assistant of the Political or Information Wing.

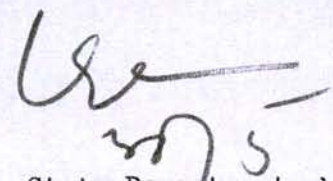
It is possible that the U.S. Department of State may also have some relevant documents which have not yet been declassified. In order to ascertain the existence and availability of such documents, Political Wing may consider approaching the State Department.



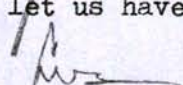
Inam Rahman
Minister (E. & S.)

F.S. (P)(I)

SSP/ Guldymph deal intentions



I called on Mr. Frank Machak in the State Department who is in charge of the Archives. He has promised to check his own records and also the relevant ~~letters~~ in the National Archives and let us have the required information possibly by next Monday.



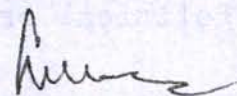
(S. Sundaram)
S S (Pol)
2nd June '78

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I have been in constant touch with the concerned section in the State Department. Some time ago I was told that they were still examining the relevant documents and would let us have an answer soon. I again spoke to Mr. Frank Muchak this morning who said that he had laid hands on some material, although he was not certain if that would answer our question. This material had been sent to the 'India Desk' for their perusal and he promised to let me know the position early next week.

The Ministry's initial reference on this subject had come some three months ago to which an interim reply was sent early in June. No subsequent reminder has been received.

For information please.



(S. Sundaram)

S S (Pol)

14th July 1978

Minister(Pol)



RC KAUSHIK
UNDER SECRETARY(AMS)

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI-11

No.W.II/125/15/78

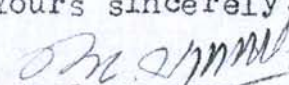
Dt. 21st August, 1978

Dear Shri Sundaram,

This is to acknowledge your letter No.
WAS/POL/125/2/78 dated the 27th July, 1978
alongwith the material you have sent regarding
the death of Netaji in Taipei.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(RC KAUSHIK)

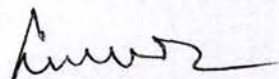
Shri S Sundaram
Second Secretary(Pol)
Embassy of India
Washington

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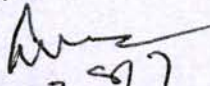
I have been in touch with the State Department to get some material concerning the Parliament question which was to be tabled by Shri Samar Guha regarding the reports about the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. After some considerable efforts, the officer concerned has been able to lay hands on some papers on the subject.

While these papers do not in any way establish the accuracy of the reports about Netaji's death, they are of some interest to us. Attention is specially invited to the American Consulate General, Bombay's report to the Secretary of State dated 21/9/45, commenting on the reaction of Indian leaders like the Late Shri K. M. Munshi, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Dr. S. P. Mukherjee, etc. to the event. Incidentally, this particular paper was declassified by the State Department only just before its being made available to us.



(S. Sundaram)
S S (Pol)
26th July 1978

Minister(Pol)

Seen by Min(Pol)

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N Co

S. Sundaram
Second Secretary(Pol)

Embassy of India
Washington, D.C. 20008

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NO. WAS/POL/125/2/78

July 27, 1978

Dear Shri Kalha,

Sp. 2 Please refer to Shri Kaushik's letter No. W.II/125/15/28 dated the 16th May 1978 to Shri K. V. Rajan regarding the death of Netaji in Taipei. I had sent an interim reply by telex to you on the 12th June 1978.

After considerable efforts the State Department has now been able to lay hands on some papers which have a bearing on this subject. You will note that some of these papers have actually been declassified just before they were handed over to us. I am sure you will find them interesting and also hope it will be of help to the Ministry in answering any parliament questions that may be raised on the subject.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

ae L

(S. Sundaram)

Shri R. S. Kalha
Deputy Secretary(AMS)
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

ENCL: Six - two sets

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT
25th & E STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

DC-R

ME

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(6)

14-11,234

3 July 1946



Memorandum for: Mr. Jack D. Neal
Department of State

Subject: Subhas Chandra Bose
KC

845.00/7-346

1. In reference to the American Consulate General, Bombay, India, airgram 274, dated 23 May 1946, a copy of which was made available to this organization, a search of our files indicates that there is no information available regarding subject's death that would shed any light on the reliability of the reports mentioned in the reference inquiry to the State Department.

Jason Paige, Jr.
Liaison Officer

REC-16
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED

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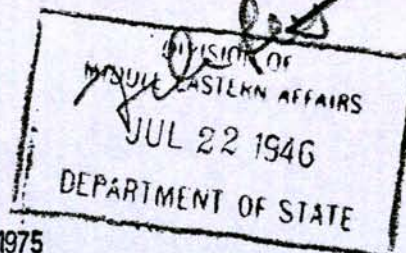
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INTELLIGENCE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

AND 750065

By CD/EE NARS, Date 26 MAR 1975



845.00/7-346

AIRGRAM SENT

TO BE TRANSMITTED
SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

Department of State

NO. A-78

Washington,

TIME _____

3012

AMERICAN CONSUL

BOMBAY (INDIA)

June 28, 1946 3011

Your A-175, May 23, 1946.

War, Military Intelligence Service, advises under date of June 20, 1946 that a search of the files in the Intelligence Division reveals that there is no direct evidence that Subhas Chandra Bose was killed in an airplane crash at Taihoko, Formosa, despite the public statement of the Japanese to that effect. Nor is there any evidence available to Intelligence Division which would indicate that Bose is still alive.

War suggests that it is possible a determination of the facts in this matter could be made by G-2, of SCAP, Tokyo and feel that a request for such information could properly be made through the British representative to the Allied Control Council - Japan.

Dept concurs in above suggestion and you may in your discretion furnish foregoing information and suggestion to British Military Intelligence, Bombay.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 7/19/78
PER Ser/Lan OFFICE EUR & NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 0001-A

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WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

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MID 915

20 June 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Jack D. Neal, Chief
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Subhas Chandra Bose, Request for Information regarding

1. A search of the files in the Intelligence Division reveals that there is no direct evidence that SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE was killed in an airplane crash at Taihoko, Formosa, despite the public statement of the Japanese to that effect. Nor is there any evidence available to Intelligence Division which would indicate that the subject is still alive.

2. Possibly a determination of the facts in this matter could be made by G-2 of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, in Tokyo. It is believed that a request for such information could properly be made through the British representative to the Allied Control Council-Japan.

FOR THE CHIEF, COLLECTION GROUP:

Ralph E. Curtiss

RALPH E. CURTISS
Lieut. Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Washington Liaison Branch

JUL 9 1946

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NND 750141
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
By R.D./H.F. NARS, Date MAR 26 1975

845.00/6-2046

In reply refer
to FC

MEMORANDUM

June 5, 1946

To: Major Thomas W. Simpson, WDGS,
Room 2B 723 The Pentagon,
War Department.

From: Jack D. Neal, Chief, Division of
Foreign Activity Correlation.

Subject: Subhas Chandra Bose, Request for information
regarding

There is enclosed a copy of Confidential airgram A-175
of May 23, 1946 from the American Consul General at Bombay,
India who requests information concerning the reported death
in a plane crash of Subhas Chandra Bose, an Indian at Taihoku,
Formosa on August 18, 1945 for transmittal to the British
Military Intelligence at Bombay.

Any information regarding this matter which may be
furnished the British Military Intelligence at Bombay will be
appreciated by the Department.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE

PER Jev/LAN OFFICE EUR & NEA

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 0001-A

Enclosure:

Copy of Airgram A-175
from Bombay, India.

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DECLASSIFICATION DATE 7/19/78

PER Per/LAN OFFICE EUR & NEA

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 0001-A

AIRGRAM

274

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ACTION-FC
INFO:
DC/A
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From: American Consulate General
Bombay, India

Date: May 23, 1946

Rec'd: June 3, 1946
2:13 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A-175, May 23, 1946.

Lt. Col. Hennessy, Chief of British Military Intelligence, Bombay, approached me several days ago on the question of Subhas Chandra Bose. Lt. Col. Hennessy said that the hold which Bose had over the Indian imagination was tremendous and that if he should return to this country trouble would result which in his judgment would be extremely difficult to quell.

Lt. Col. Hennessy was captured at Singapore and was confined in various Japanese prison camps until he was rescued by the Russians in Manchuria in 1945. He spent nine months in a prison camp in Formosa which overlooked the air field where Bose's plane is reported to have crashed. According to Lt. Col. Hennessy it should be reasonably easy to establish beyond the shadow of a doubt whether Bose is dead or alive. He did not seem to know anything regarding British Intelligence reports on the subject, or at least he pretended to know nothing. I personally am not sufficiently familiar with events in Formosa in 1945 to know whether British or American agents did in fact make any inquiries regarding Bose's death. Lt. Col. Hennessy asked me if I could ascertain whether American Intelligence reports substantiated the fact that Bose actually died following the plane crash at Taihoku on August 18, 1945. I told him that I would do so but that I could not promise that United States Army Intelligence had gone into the matter as our interest in the problem would, of course, not be as great as that of Great Britain, and that under the circumstances inquiries into Bose's death might well have been overlooked when American forces went into Formosa.

Lt. Col. Hennessy said that obviously there must have been a number of people who saw the plane crash and burn at Taihoku

on August 18

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A-175, May 23, 1946 -2- Bombay, India

on August 18; that Bose must have been treated in a hospital by some physician; that if he died there must be people who had first-hand knowledge of his death and that there might conceivably be some record of his death; and that further, in the event of his death, there must be people alive today who had some knowledge of his cremation and the ceremonial disposal of his ashes.

If the Department could furnish any information on this subject, it would be most helpful to this Consulate General in its contacts with British Military Intelligence at Bombay. Positive proof of some kind that Bose is dead would be most interesting.

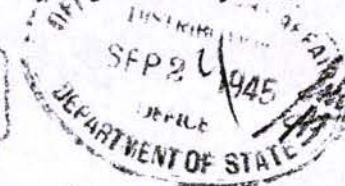
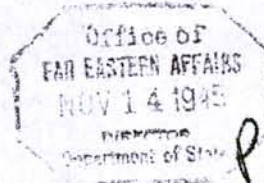
DONOVAN

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M. Donovan:fp

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Bombay, India, September 6, 1945



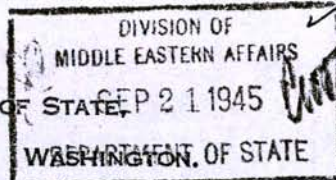
(12)

SUBJECT: Indian Reaction to the Report of Subhas Chandra
Bose's Death

1-1055

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE



SIR:

I have the honor to report that August 25, 1945 was observed as "Subhas Day" in Bombay as a mark of respect to the memory of Subhas Chandra Bose. On August 24, "hartal" was observed in the city on account of Bose's death. Several schools were closed owing to the students' refusal to attend classes. At one institution of learning in Bombay the teachers became involved in a brawl with the students and lathis were used. One student had his face slapped by the principal and a great hue and cry was raised over the incident. A number of cotton mills were closed and the total loss in wages amounted to many thousands of rupees. The cotton, stock and bullion exchanges were closed as were many sections of the bazaar. There was no rioting but there were several instances reported in which Indian students spat on Europeans riding in buses. These incidents did not obtain very wide publicity but they were reported by Forum, a Bombay weekly. There were "hartals" in Ahmedabad, Surat, Sholapur, Poona, Lahore and many other places.

The majority of the Indian political figures in Bombay, such as Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mr. Nagindas Masters and Mr. K. F. Nariman were careful to include in their tributes the statement that Bose was wrong in casting in his lot with the Japanese. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statement to the press at Poona probably sums up as well as any the general attitude of Indian nationalists toward Bose. The Sardar said:

"The tragic end of an eventful life of one of the bravest and foremost patriots of India, Subhas Chandra Bose, will be mourned deeply by all throughout the country. There was nothing that he did not sacrifice in the struggle for freedom. There can be no doubt

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that in making his alliance with Japan, he was moved by the highest impulse of patriotism, coupled with a sense of frustration. Equally, there can be no doubt that it was an act of misguided patriotism. It was a grievous mistake to think that Japan would help India out of any higher or unselfish motives. The defeat of Japan followed by his death must completely remove any justification for the continuance of the spirit of policy pursued upto now by Government.

"Shri Sarat Chandra Bose should be released at once. The other detenus of his family should also be released. The order of forfeiture and sale of his property should be withdrawn. The persecution of his friends and associates must cease."

The Hindu Mahasabha also paid tribute to Bose. Dr. Mookerjee said that Bose "was one of India's greatest patriots" and that "his life and career will serve as a source of inspiration to generations of Indians, irrespective of caste, creed or community."

Although I have never been inclined to underestimate the extent of pro-Japanese feeling in India, whether conscious or unconscious, I must confess to some surprise at the widespread expressions of admiration for Bose. They should not be underestimated in an evaluation of the Indian nationalist attitude towards Great Britain and the other members of the United Nations.

Respectfully yours,



Howard Donovan
American Consul General

800

H.Donovan:fp

Original and hectograph to the Department
Copy to American Mission, New Delhi
American Embassy, London.

(2)

T E L E X

14

From : Indembassy, Washington

To : Foreign, New Delhi

DS(AMS) from Second Secretary(Pol)

Your letter 16th May Lok Sabha question regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose(.) We have approached State Department who are still trying to get ~~their~~ information from the old records(.) Hope to give you a more positive reply soon(.)

Not to be telexed:

Dated: 12th June 1978

(S. Sundaram)
S S (Pol)

(15)



RS KAUSHIK
UNDER SECRETARY(AMS)

MOST IMMEDIATE/LOK SABHA QUESTION

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NEW DELHI-11

(1)

No.W.II/125/15/28

Dt. 16th May, 1978

Dear Shri Rajan:

I have been desired by the Joint Secretary(AMS) to enclose a copy of a Lok Sabha question which was to be put for the 11th May sitting regarding the death of Netaji in Taipei. We have made all efforts to locate the information as far as United States is concerned but have not succeeded. JS has observed that we may ask our Embassy in Washington to make enquiries of the US Archives. The concerned Divisions are dealing with the other aspects. We shall highly appreciate if you could kindly let us have whatever information is available with you.

With kind regards,

Meas

*Deeply grateful of your kind
kindly handle this*

Yours sincerely,

RS KAUSHIK
(RS KAUSHIK)

Shri KV Rajan
First Secretary(Pol)
Embassy of India
Washington

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

D.No.20359

Ministry to which the day has been allotted: EXTERNAL AFFAIR

The question will be put down for the
sitting on the :

11.5.78

DEATH OF NETAJI IN TAIPEH

SIRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be
pleased to state:

- a) whether the reports of inquiries about alleged death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Taipei in 1945 made by the British and the USA Government and the British ~~ex~~ global intelligence department with its headquarter at London, called CSIC, could not be traced;
- b) if so, will the Government try to find these reports from the archives of the Government of UK and USA;
- c) whether the Government will write to the Government of USSR for getting information about Netaji's taking asylum in Russia after the alleged aircrash at Taipei in Formosa; and
- d) if so, the steps taken or proposed thereabout?